

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Marine Reserves Working Group Meeting

Thursday, June 22, 2000
8:30 A.M. — 5:00 P.M.
UCSB's University Center
Flying A Studio, Santa Barbara, California

Draft Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

Patty Wolf, Co-Chair
Matt Pickett, Co-Chair
Locky Brown
Warner Chabot
Gordon Cota (alt. for Chris Miller)
Marla Daily
Gary Davis
Robert Fletcher
Dr. Craig Fusaro
Dale Glantz
Neil Guglielmo
Mark Helvey
Deborah McArdle
Tom Raftican
Steve Roberson
Dr. Michael McGinnis
Alicia Stratton

John Jostes, Facilitator

Staff from CINMS: Dr. Satie Airame, Sean
Hastings, Mettja Hong, and Mike Murray

Members of the Socio-economic Panel:

Dr. Bob Leeworthy
Dr. Craig Barilotti
Dr. Carrie Pomeroy
Peter Wiley
Dr. Charles Kolstad

Members of the public

(alt. designates alternate for primary working
group member)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting opened up with introductions from Co-Chairs Patty Wolf and Matt Pickett. Patty Wolf noted that she will keep the process challenges in mind as the MRWG progresses. Matt Pickett emphasized that the Management Plan and the MRWG are separate processes. He reported that the only link between the two processes is that there will be a marine reserves section in the Management Plan. This overlooks the other link: TetraTech is collecting information for support of both the Management Plan revision and the MRWG simultaneously.
2. **Review Agenda and Process Overview:** John Jostes gave a brief overview of the agenda and asked the MRWG to be constructive while working through the goals and objectives. Patty Wolf asked the MRWG for a progress check regarding the facilitation of the process. John Jostes reported that he had indirectly heard of non-specific concerns coming from MRWG members regarding his job as the facilitator and asked the MRWG to discuss how he can help them in the best possible way. John Jostes then left the room as the MRWG discussed this matter.

Patty Wolf, Co-chair then invited John to rejoin the meeting. The general consensus was that neutral facilitation is essential in this process and that John is doing a sufficient job, and should continue. The MRWG members expressed a desire for greater latitude in the process and greater input into the development of agenda materials. Jostes indicated he would make sure that members were consulted in the process of agenda development and indicated he would add additional perspectives as the meeting and process moved forward. The MRWG also encouraged Michael Eng to participate in future meetings given his experience with the Florida Keys and Tortugas 2000.

3. **Update on Socioeconomic Panel Progress:**

(A) **Introduction:** Dr. Bob Leeworthy summarized the data collection efforts for the socioeconomic study. He reported that the goal of the Socioeconomic Panel is to show the distribution of catch within a 1 square mile grid pattern, a finer resolution than the 10 mile California Department of Fish and Game fish blocks. The panel gathered data from 1988 — 1999 and showed temporal and spatial variability. Dr. Leeworthy then provided a summary of the port data, noting that they chose to focus on the most economically valued species.

(B) Commercial Fishing Industry Overview: Dr. Leeworthy gave an overview of the data collection efforts for the commercial fishing industry. The socioeconomic profile used in these efforts include: the ability to adapt to change (experience, age, and level of education), the fisherman's dependency on the fishery (family, crew, % of income, % of landings, and profits/economic rents), community representation (city of residence and port where landed catch), perception of trends in catch per unit of effort and reasons for changes in catch, and perceptions of the effect of a reserve on fishing operations.

(C) Commercial Fishing Data Collection: Dr. Craig Barilotti opened with a summary of his data collection efforts. Dr. Barilotti has created a team of various fishermen (Terre Hawkins, Chuck Janisse, and Chris Miller) to help him in his efforts. He has also created an oversight committee of approximately 13 fishermen. He has sent out surveys to 87 fishermen and has received 31 back. Included with the survey was a map exercise where fishermen were asked to map areas where they do not want reserves. Because the oversight committee had not yet reviewed the results of this exercise, he was unable to show them to the MRWG. However, he indicated that once he had received authorization from the oversight committee, that he would provide the MRWG with copies for their consideration in the reserve designation process. One of the general trends that he has discovered is that buyout may not accomplish its intention of reducing take. Bob Fletcher concurred with Bob that if you buy out the wrong people, it might not have an impact.

Discussions regarding the number of people being surveyed and whether that number is representative ensued. Dr. Barilotti emphasized that he is trying to get complete representation. One of the avenues for getting the information out is by developing a mailing list for the 100 members of the Ventura County Fishermen's Association. After the data collection effort is complete, Dr. Barilotti hopes to provide the MRWG with fishing locations and landing data.

Marla Daily asked if permits information was being used for data collection. Dr. Leeworthy mentioned that they are requesting permit information from the Department of Fish and Game.

(D) Commercial Fishing — Squid: Dr. Carrie Pomeroy reported that the goals of her study effort were to characterize the changing practices and institutions in the California market squid fishery, to determine the relationship between fishers and processors' dependence on the squid fishery and their respective fishing and process strategies, and to ascertain the spatial patterns and linkages of the Central Southern California fishery. She provided the MRWG with a brief history of the squid fishing industry. According to Dr. Pomeroy, there are two components of this fishery, light boat operators and purse seiners. Light boats locate the areas where squid might be found and hold spots for purse seiners. She noted that many squid fishing vessels that fish around the Channel Islands come from different cities and different states; Monterey, San Pedro — Washington and Alaska.

Dr. Pomeroy is being assisted by a variety of other researchers and contributors, four of which are squid fishermen. She developed a packet of information including maps, a questionnaire, and letter, and distributed it to various squid fishermen. The fishermen were asked to fill out the questionnaire and mark the maps with the areas where their fishing activities take place. She hopes to have a high rate of return on the survey and expects all data to be complete by the end of July 2000.

(E) Anecdotal Data Collection: Dr. Satie Airame gave an overview of Mick Kronman's data collection efforts. Dr. Airame reported that this data is additional information so that the MRWG can understand the local knowledge data layer. Forty-five different users of the Sanctuary were interviewed for 2 hours about resource use. Some of the questions Mick Kronman asked were if they were recreational or commercial users, how long were they out per year and at what level, what was their main focus, and were there any changes noted. The anecdotal data was provided to Dr. Airame in hard copy and was then digitized and put into a GIS by Matt Stout, CINMS intern. Dr. Airame reviewed some of the results species by species. The following is a summary of some of the general findings.

Kelp: 7 people contributed

- The 1983 El Niño had a significant impact on kelp
- There has been a lot of change in kelp over time
- The coastal kelp is struggling

Red Sea Urchin: 6 people contributed

- Distribution is wide spread
- In 1972, the California live fish sea urchin fishery in Asian markets opened
- They currently fluctuate widely, but are a stable resource except where sea otters have expanded their range

- They re general size is smaller, but they are still abundant

Abalone: 7 people contributed

- The abalone fishery closed in 1997
- In the 1960 s and 1970 s, pink and red abalone were abundant
- The 1982-1983 El Ni o impacted this fishery
- Withering Disease Syndrome came about in the 1980 s
- Pink, Red, Black, and White abalone have declined
- Red abalone is healthy around the south-western end of San Miguel
- Snails are increasing, which may be related to the decrease in abalone

Lobster: 10 people contributed

- They are healthy, plentiful, and strong

Shrimp and Sea Cucumbers: 3 people contributed

- Historical grounds were larger
- Pink and ridgeback shrimp are healthy

Squid: 6 people contributed

- Some said that squid is abundant, others suggested that it may be depleting

Halibut Fishing Grounds: 17 people contributed

- The fishing effort is concentrated around the islands
- Trawling is not allowed 1 mile off of the islands
- 9 people suggested that halibut is healthy and abundant, others suggested that halibut is a little harder to find now

Kelp bass, White seabass, and Black seabass: 18 people contributed

- White seabass is a good example of a rebounding species. It is currently abundant and healthy
- Kelp bass has not changed much, but may be somewhat declining
- Giant seabass has declined, but is still around. It is abundant in some areas

Anchovy, Mackerel, and Sardine Fishing Grounds: 6 people contributed

- Anchovy is generally more abundant with cooler water and increased kelp
- Mackerel is scarce
- Sardines are abundant and the biomass is huge

Rockfish: 7 people contributed

- Depleted due to water quality, loss of habitat, water temperature, and commercial and recreational fishing
- The deeper fish are generally harvested by commercial net fishermen
- The shallow fish are generally harvested by recreational fishermen

Yellowtail: 10 people

- Abundant
- The focus is on Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and the west end of Santa Cruz Islands

Bonito, Salmon, and Sheephead: 3 people contributed

- Bonito is scarce
- Sheephead is moderately depleted

Marine Mammals

- Sea otters are increasing (2,317 individuals between Pt. San Pedro and El Capitan)
- There is a southward migration of otters that has resulted in severe declines of urchin
- Harbor seals are stable

(F) Recreation Industry Data Collection: Peter Wiley, NOAA economist, gave an overview of the recreational industry data collection efforts. He is focussing on Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, utilizing information from the UCSB Economic Forecast Project, CA Department of Finance, PADI, the California Department of Fish and Game, and others. The analysis of this data will include a summary profile for a marine reserve study area, a boundary analysis, non-market economic values (consumer s surplus and economic rent), market economic values (total output/sales, income and employment), and a frame of reference.

(G) Charter/Party Boat Operations Data Collection: Dr. Charles Kolstad reported that the goals of his study are to identify the geographic use, economic benefits of use, and the most important geographic areas of CINMS. His approach includes the identification of operators from San Diego to Santa Barbara, the execution of a survey for each operator, and the compilation of the survey into a database. The survey will be designed by first using a fashion instrument with NOAA, then editing the instrument using a survey research expert, pretesting the instrument on several subjects, training the survey researchers, revising the instrument, executing the instrument, and finally inputting the data into an ArcView GIS. Two hundred operators were identified through guidebooks, NOAA, the yellow pages, etc., 44 of which use the CINMS area.

Dr. Bob Leeworthy concluded the presentation by indicating that the Socio-economic Team was striving to have their report finalized and available for MRWG review by the August 22nd meeting. However, he was not optimistic that he would have the material available for distribution to the MRWG in advance of the meeting.

4. **Map drawing discussion:** In response to discussions earlier in the morning regarding process, John Jostes asked participants to indicate their preferences in relation to specifying areas for inclusion within or exclusion from marine reserves. There was a wide range of opinions offered. Several members of the MRWG expressed a desire to begin drawing reserve option locations on a map. Bob Fletcher believes that without the information from the Science or Socioeconomic Panels, the MRWG will not be well informed about determining which reserve scenarios are the best; however, he also feels that until actual places are pointed out, it is difficult to engage the fishing community. Deborah McArdle expressed concern that not all members of the MRWG share the same knowledge, and if the fishermen draw lines now, the MRWG will no longer be on common ground. Gordon Cota, Neil Guglielmo and Dale Glantz each articulated a strong desire to provide the MRWG with an indication of where the fishing community felt areas might be included in marine reserves and which areas should be excluded. They indicated that they would be prepared to provide a basis for an initial discussion of locations for reserves by the next meeting in July. Dr. Craig Fusaro stated that he would prefer it if all spatial-oriented information came out simultaneous with the Science Panel s. He emphasized the importance of allowing MRWG members enough time to go back to their constituents once the reserve scenarios are drawn.

Bruce Steele, speaking from the audience, expressed an interest in drawing reserve areas on a map that he and other commercial fishermen can deal with. Bruce was provided 5 minutes to point out these areas while describing the conceptual framework in choosing those areas. Bruce began by stating the importance of the Santa Barbara Gyre in larval distribution. Two of the areas that he felt would be of particular importance when designing reserve scenarios were Richardson and Wilson Rocks, an area where submerged rocks, hydrocoral, and rockfish can be found. The other area that he pointed out was Gull Island, which covers Phyllospadix, residual Santa Cruz Island southern black abalone beds, and recreational opportunities. Bruce reported that the only species that these areas would not cover is *Zostera* in soft shallow habitat.

5. **Consideration of Revised Problem Statement, and Goals and Objectives:** John Jostes reported that he synthesized the comments from the MRWG and edited the problem statement with CINMS and DFG staff. The MRWG approved the problem statement with minor modifications. The approved problem statement is attached to this meeting summary. Discussion then focused on the remaining goals and objectives. Consideration of additional goals and objectives was deferred until the July 18 meeting.
6. **Next Steps:** John Jostes led the discussion of the next steps on the road toward crafting a recommendation regarding mariner reserves. He noted that in order to be responsive, to the group's wishes, that he would be entertaining suggestions for what the agenda for next meeting might contain. He also requested that individuals contact him via e-mail or FAX with suggestions. John Jostes also asked the MRWG to send him any concerns/edits/additions to the goals and objectives within the week.

Final Comments: Matt Pickett thanked everyone on the MRWG for attending and participating at this meeting. He was impressed by the amount of data that has been collected for this process and believes that the MRWG has raised the bar for what is considered best available. Patty Wolf also thanked the MRWG and noted that the July meeting could be a turning point.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Summary of Action Items:

1. MRWG members were requested to E-mail or fax comments on the remaining MRWG Goals and Objectives to John Jostes by Thursday, June 29.
2. MRWG members were also encouraged to sign up for subcommittees.

Future MRWG Meeting Dates:

July 18;
August 22-23;
September 26;
October 18, and;
November 16.

Adopted Problem Statement

The urbanization of southern California has significantly increased the number of people visiting the coastal zone and using its resources. This has increased human demands on the ocean, including commercial and recreational fishing, as well as wildlife viewing and other activities. A burgeoning coastal population has also greatly increased the use of our coastal waters as receiving areas for human, industrial, and agricultural wastes. In addition, new technologies have increased the efficiency, effectiveness, and yield of sport and commercial fisheries. Concurrently there have been wide scale natural phenomena such as El Niño weather patterns, oceanographic regime shifts, and dramatic fluctuations in pinniped populations.

In recognizing the scarcity of many marine organisms relative to past abundance, any of the above factors could play a role. Everyone concerned desires to better understand the effects of the individual factors and their interactions, to reverse or stop trends of resource decline, and to restore the integrity and resilience of impaired ecosystems.

To protect, maintain, restore, and enhance living marine resources, it is necessary to develop new management strategies that encompass an ecosystem perspective and promote collaboration between competing interests. One strategy is to develop reserves where all harvest is prohibited. Reserves provide a precautionary measure against the possible impacts of an expanding human population and management uncertainties, offer education and research opportunities, and provide reference areas to measure non-harvesting impacts.